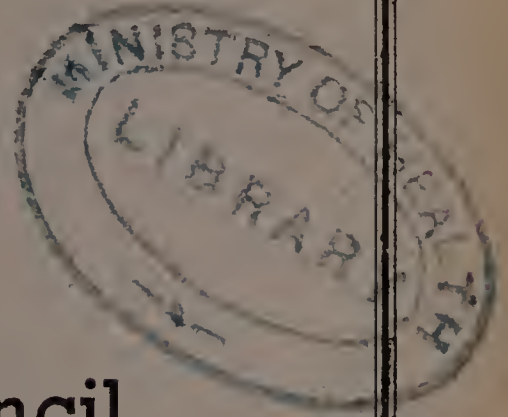
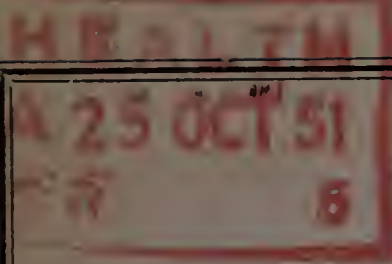


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**WEARDALE**  
**Rural District Council**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**

FOR THE YEAR 1950

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Rural District Council

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## WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1950.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1950.

### **SECTION A.**

#### **Statistics and Social Conditions.**

Area of District, 99,652 Acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of population, 9,170.

Number of inhabited houses at end of year, 2,996.

Rateable Value, £48,434.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £180. 8s. 0d.

Throughout the year employment has remained at a high level. Wages have continued to improve.

The Steel Works at Wolsingham have maintained a high rate of production and have carried out minor extensions to works buildings.

Limestone, ganister and sand quarries have continued in full employment. Parson Byers Limestone Quarry is in the process of removing a considerable volume of overburden. This will lengthen the life of the quarry considerably.

Fluorspar and lead ore are being produced in Stanhope by Fluorspar Limited, in Rookhope by the Weardale Lead Company and at Hieghts Mine, Westgate by the Anglo Austral Mines Limited.

## Vital Statistics.

### BIRTHS.

There were 120 total births (alive and still)

Live Births	...	115	
Still Births	...	5	
		<hr/>	
		120	
		<hr/>	

### LIVE BIRTHS.

Legitimate	...	50	59
Illegitimate	...	3	3
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		53	62

### STILL BIRTHS.

		Male	Female
Legitimate	...	4	1
Illegitimate	...	0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		4	1

On an estimated population of 9,170 these figures give the following rates for 1,000 population:—

Total Births	...	13.1
Live Births	...	12.5
Still Births	...	0.5

The rates for England and Wales were:—

Live Births	...	15.8 per 1,000 population
Still Births	...	0.37 per 1,000 population

The birth rate has dropped from 14.06 per 1,000 in 1949. The still birth rate has risen from 0.2 per 1,000 population.



## DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered as pertaining to this district were:—

Males	...	69
Females	...	69
Total	...	<u>138</u>

These figures give a total death rate per 1,000 population of 15.05. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.6 per 1,000 population.

## MATERNAL DEATHS.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

## INFANTILE DEATHS.

All causes under one year:

These numbered 3 and were as follows:—

		Male	Female
Legitimate	...	3	0
Illegitimate	...	0	0
Total	...	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>

## DEATHS OF INFANTS under 4 weeks:

There were two such deaths.

		Male	Female
Legitimate	...	2	0
Illegitimate	...	0	0
Total	...	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>

These figures give a mortality rate of per 1,000 Live Births of 25, an increase of 17.

The rate for England and Wales is 29.8 per 1,000 Live Births, a decrease of 2.2.

## DEATHS FROM CANCER.

These numbered 17, which represents 12.3 per cent of all deaths and cancer rate of 1.9 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS FROM MEASLES,	Nil.
DEATHS FROM WHOOPING COUGH,	Nil.
DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA (under 2 years)	2

## CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES OF DEATH				Males.	Females.
All Causes ... ..				69	69
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	2	1
2	Tuberculosis Other	..	...	0	0
3	Syphilitic Diseases...	...	...	0	0
4	Diphtheria	...	...	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	...	..	0	0
6	Meningococcal Infection	...	...	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	0	0
8	Measles	...	...	0	0
9	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	..	...	0	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	2	3
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	1	1
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	..	0	3
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	0	1
14	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	2	4
15	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	...	...	0	0
16	Diabetes	...	..	0	0
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	7	19
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	..	...	16	7
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	0	2
20	Other Heart Diseases	...	..	15	8
21	Other circulatory Diseases	...	...	6	8
22	Influenza	..	...	0	0
23	Pneumonia	...	..	5	1
24	Bronchitis	...	...	1	3
25	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	...	...	0	0
26	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	...	...	1	0
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	1	0
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	0	0
31	Congenital Malformations	...	...	0	0
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	6	6
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	1	0
34	All Other Accidents	...	...	0	0
35	Suicide	...	...	2	0
36	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	0	0
Total ... ..				69	69



Appended are the birth rates and death rates for the preceeding seven years.

	Birthrate	Deathrate
1943	13.6	13.9
1944	16.7	14.2
1945	11.4	10.8
1946	17.3	14.1
1947	17.3	14.1
1948	12.8	12.3
1949	14.06	12.4
1950	13.1	15.05

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services

#### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

#### MEDICAL.

Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

DONALD THOMSON, O.B.E., M.B.

Tuberculosis Medical Officer  
 Venereal Diseases Medical Officer  
 School Medical Officer  
 Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer  
 Obstetric Consultants

} Under  
 Durham  
 County  
 Council

#### OTHERS

Sanitary Inspector,

R. G. SUDDICK, Cert. R.S.I., Lond., (whole time)

Health Visitor  
 Veterinary Surgeon  
 Public Analyst

}

Under Durham County Council.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological examinations of sputum, throat swabs and blood for diagnosis of Tuberculosis, Diphtheria and Typhoid-Fever are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 5. In addition, other examinations are carried out when necessary, e.g., Examinations of urine and faeces and virulence tests. This valuable work is carried out at the expense of the Durham County Council.

Every practitioner in the District can make use of these facilities and a copy of every report is sent to the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year 57 such examinations were carried out.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The greater part of the district is served through the Ambulance Control Office, Bishop Auckland (Tel No. Bishop Auckland 810). One Ambulance Car is stationed at St. John's Chapel.

The villages of Hunstanworth and Edmundbyers are served from the Ambulance Control Office at Consett (Tel. No. Consett 411).

At Wolsingham the Wolsingham Steel Company still retain their own ambulance car for the use of their employees and their dependents.

## NURSING IN THE HOME.

The whole of the Area with the exception of Stanhope and the sparsely inhabited neighbourhood of Hunstanworth is provided with district Nurse-Midwives, working under local Nursing Associations. These are all affiliated to and subsidised by the Durham County Nursing Association. At Stanhope the general nursing is done by a district nurse who is not maternity trained. Maternity cases are attended by the County Council Midwife stationed at Frosterley.

At Hunstanworth, a local Association subscribes to the neighbouring association in Northumberland and thus have the services of the Carterway Heads Nurse Midwife when required.

## TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare centres are in operation at Wolsingham, Stanhope and St. John's Chapel. A Venereal Diseases Clinic at Durham and a Tuberculosis Clinic at Bishop Auckland are available for the District. These are all under County Council control.

## HOSPITALS.

There is no general hospital in the area. By far the greater part of the cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which receives a fair amount of support from the District.

In Durham City, Dryburn Hospital and the Durham County Hospital received an increasing number of patients from this district. The General Hospital in Bishop Auckland, which was opened in 1948 and is expanding to 500 beds, is accommodating an increasing number of patients from this district.

## SECTION C.

### Sanitary Circumstances and General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

#### WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supplies in the Council's area of supply were well maintained and no serious shortage was reported during the year.

The following extensions were carried out:—

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Stanhope          | - Extension of 3in. main to serve new housing estate at Paragon Street, a distance of approximately 150 yards. |
| St. John's Chapel | - Extension of 3in. main to serve new housing estate, a distance of approximately 75 yards.                    |
| Wearhead          | - Extension of 3in. main to serve new housing estate, a distance of approximately 50 yards.                    |



Repairs to mains and services were carried out by your workmen on 191 instances.

## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

During the year minor improvements, including digging over and re-levelling land used for treatment, re-arrangement of feeder channels and clearing and relaying land drains, were carried out at the various sewage works.

43 stoppages in sewers and 18 in drains were cleared by your workmen.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Complaints were investigated in conjunction with the County Health Inspector.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closets of each type at the end of the year:—

Water Closets	1525
Ashclosets	839
Ashpit-Privies	270

Eighteen applicants took advantage of the Council's scheme allowing a grant up to a maximum of £8 for converting existing sanitary accommodation to the water carriage system, 21 closets being converted.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

### REFUSE REMOVAL.

Apart from the outlying properties, the greater part of your Area is covered by the Cleansing Service.

The estimated weight of refuse removed during the year was 4,390 tons and the mileage covered by the Cleansing Vehicles was 17,986. The total cost of the Cleansing Services during the year was £4,126.

Refuse was disposed of at the main tip at Frosterley and also at Crawleyside, Cowshill and Rookhope.

## RATS & MICE DESTRUCTION ACTS.

The Rodent Officer has been fully engaged during the year. Systematic treatment of dwelling-houses was undertaken and the sewers and refuse tips received periodic treatment.

Summary of year's work:—

	Number of Baiting points	Number of "Takes"	Estimated Kill
Sewers	214	23	132
Sewage Works	108	35	346
Refuse Tips	105	78	488
Houses etc.	739	321	2734

## SHOPS ACT - Ventilation and Temperature.

Inspections have been carried out and no action was found necessary.

## ICE CREAM.

Inspections were carried out in connection with applications for licence to store and sell ice-cream.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The district is fortunate in having few industries of the type usually associated with smoke nuisance and no action was found necessary during the year.



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Nature of Inspections	Number	Notices		Complied with
		Informal	Formal	
Infectious Diseases	29	0	0	0
Disinfection	32	0	0	0
Nuisances	5	2	1	3
Dwellings	166	10	0	10
Sanitary Accommodation	36	18	0	18
Water Supply	95	1	0	1
House Drainage	38	5	0	5
Pigsties	5	2	0	2

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## Meat and Other Foods.

No Slaughtering for sale is done in the district under existing conditions.

Visits have been carried out to shops and stores in the district and these are generally well kept.

Food was condemned as unfit for sale on 12 instances. In each case the food was surrendered voluntarily under Ministry of Food Regulations.

There are four bakehouses in the district. These are clean and satisfactory.

**SECTION D.**

## HOUSING.

## (a) By Contract.

30 traditional type houses were completed and occupied during the year as follows:-

Stanhope	...	8
Frosterley	...	4
Wolsingham	...	18

74 houses were also under course of construction:-

Stanhope	...	40
Wolsingham	...	14
Wearhead	...	8
St. John's Chapel	...	12

(b) By Direct Labour.

The remaining 20 Airey Type Rural Houses, under the Council's Direct Labour Scheme were completed and occupied:-

Frosterley	...	6
Stanhope	...	14

The work on the preparation of housing sites by the provision of roads and sewers was well advanced at Rookhope, Wolsingham, Frosterley, Stanhope, St. John's Chapel and Wearhead.

The total number of houses provided under the Council's housing programme in the post-war period up to 31st December 1950 is 131.

(c) Private Enterprise.

3 houses (2 at Wolsingham and 1 at Eastgate) were completed and occupied during the year. One house was under course of construction.

3 properties (at Hunstanworth, Stanhope and Wolsingham) were adapted and converted into dwelling-houses and duly occupied. Work on other property at Stanhope, which would provide two additional houses was also in progress.

## SECTION E.

### Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Disease.

I received 250 notifications during the year, these were as follows:—

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox ... ..	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	29	27	0
Pneumonia ... ..	8	0	6
Measles ... ..	35	0	0
Diphtheria ... ..	2	2	0
Erysipelas ... ..	6	0	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	166	0	0
Para-Typhoid Fever ... ..	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ... ..	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	0	0	0
Meningitis ... ..	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ... ..	1	1	0
Dysentery ... ..	1	1	0
Enteric Fever ... ..	1	1	0
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	1	1	0
Food Poisoning ... ..	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>

The epidemic of Whooping Cough began in Upper Weardale in March and slowly spread down the dale to Frosterley.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Records of Immunisations done are sent direct to the Durham County Council Health Department and our records as to the state of immunity are therefore incomplete.

The two cases of Diphtheria notified were not confirmed as such, after bacteriological examination of throat swabs.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 4 years ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 14 years ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 24 years ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 34 years ...	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 44 years ...	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
45 to 54 years ...	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 64 years ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	6	1	1	-	2	1	-	-

At the end of the year the number of cases on the register was:—

	Respiratory	Non Respiratory
Males	45	22
Females	37	24
	<u>82</u>	<u>46</u>

There were three deaths (all the result of Respiratory Tuberculosis) and four other cases (3 Respiratory and 1 non-respiratory) notified as recovered, were removed from the register.

The Tuberculosis Death rate for the year was 0.76 per 1,000 population,

I am,

Yours obediently,

**DONALD THOMSON.**







